

sophisticated Hawaiian hybrids of recent origin, cultivars originated by August Miller and Arthur Nagao of Honolulu. However, most of the crosses produced flowers very much inferior to the hybrids, and not much better than those produced by common varieties. No improvement in plant vigor was apparent.

Perhaps the most important finding during the past year has been made possible by bringing the project under glass. In the past it has required 18 to 30 months to bring seedlings into bloom, but in the greenhouse many seedlings bloomed in 9 months and most of them in 12 months.

The very sparse literature on hibiscus hybridization recommends that when crossing is successful, one must select "old, established plants" as only such plants will produce seed. Some years ago it was found by experimentation that the first blooms produced by seedlings produced seed readily. This year, this was tried out on a large scale and proved without a doubt that seed can be produced on very young plants even more satisfactorily than on older ones. Plants which were from seed planted in February, 1963 and brought into the Arboretum greenhouse as tiny seedlings in

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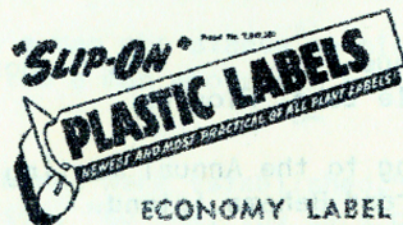
April, 1963, bloomed in December, were pollinated and produced seed which are now plants of gallon can size.

Last spring seed of a large number of hibiscus species, mainly annuals and biennials, as well as some Gossypiums were collected in Australia and Singapore. All of these seed have been planted, and in some cases, plants from them are in bloom. Some crosses have been made, mainly with *H. sine-syriacus*, and while it may be a bit premature to report on the matter, one seed pod is set on this interesting species, the result of an interspecific cross, the pollen plant being *H. syriacus*.

I had a letter from Harry Goulding which was a bit disconcerting, in a way. He said that in Florida, many people wonder why I do not send more "goodies" back for the shows, that is, for others to bloom and show, just as I did in the early days. I guess this is a valid question, and I should perhaps answer it.

Few Floridians appreciate the fact that while your weather conditions permit you to hybridize dooryard plants just as they do in Hawaii, we can seldom get seed this way in Southern California. I gave up trying many years ago, and took my entire project indoors, and with a greenhouse that is maintained at Honolulu temperatures and humidity, I can actually get a higher

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